GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1428
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
PROVIDING OF TELEPHONE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are committed to provide telephone services in each village of the country and are expanding telecommunication services in the country rapidly keeping it in view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a decision has been taken at the higher level by which the establishment of telephone exchanges to provide telecom services in the rural areas has been stopped or restrictions have been imposed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is committed to provide telephone facility in all the inhabited villages of the country. BSNL has already provided telephone facility in 504945 villages upto 31.3.2003 of its share. The BSNL target for the current year is 29600 including 18006 satellite based telephones. These villages are planned to be covered during 2003-2004 subject to availability of equipment in time and funds for satellite based VPTs.

(c) No, Sir. There is no ban on installationof telephone exchanges in rural areas for providing telephone facilities. The telephone exchanges are being planned in rural areas as per present norms given below.

(i) The planning of rural areas will be first by WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) solution.

(ii) If WLL solution is not workable due to technical reasons a new exchange will be planned with minimum registered demand of 75 within 2.5 Kilometers (radial) of the exchange.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.